His Majesties
MOST GRACIOUS
SPEECH
To Both Houses of
PARLIAMENT,
WITH THE
LORD KEEPERS,
On *Monday February* 14, 166⅞.

By His Majesties Command.

In the *SAVOY*,
Printed by the Assigns of *John Bill* and *Christopher Barker*, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Majesty. 166⅞.

CUM PRIVILEGIO.

LORD KEEPER'S

PAYMENT

SPEECH

HIS MAJESTIES

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MOST GRACIOUS
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To both Houses of
PARLIAMENT,
With the LORD KEEPERS,
on *Monday, February* 14, 166$\frac{9}{70}$.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I *Sent forth My Proclamation that there might be a good Appearance at this Meeting, having most confidence in full Houses, where the well-being of the Church, and all other Interests of the Crown and Nation are best secured.*

When we last met, I asked you a Supply, and I ask it now again with greater Instance: the uneasiness and straightness of my Affairs cannot continue without very ill Effects to the whole Kingdom: Consider this seriously and speedily; it is yours and the Kingdoms Interest as well as Mine; and the ill Consequence of a want of an effectual Supply must not lie at my Door: And that no misapprehensions or mistakes touching the Expences of the last War may remain with you, I think fit to let you know, that I have fully informed My Self in that Matter, and do affirm to you, That no part of those Moneys that you gave Me for that War, have been diverted to other uses; but on the contrary, besides all those Supplies, a very great Summe hath been raised out of My standing Revenue and Credit, and a very great Debt contracted, and all for the War.

One Thing I must earnestly recommend to the Prudence of both Houses, that you will not suffer any occasion of Difference between your selves to be revived; since nothing but the Unity

of

of your Minds and Counſels, can make this Meeting happy either to Me or to the Nation.

I did recommend to you at Our laſt Meeting, the Union of the Two Kingdoms, and I did the ſame to My Parliament in Scotland, they have made a great ſtep towards it; and I do again ſeriouſly recommend that Matter to you.

I have directed My Lord Keeper to ſpeak more at large to you.

The Lord Keepers Speech.

My Lords, and you Knights, Citizens and Burgesses of the House of Commons,

AT your last meeting, His Majesty did acquaint you with the great occasions He had for a Supply, and that He had forborn to ask it sooner, more in consideration of giving some time, for the ease of the people after the burden of the War: then that the condition of His Affairs could so long have wanted it: And His Majesty hath Commanded me now, to speak more fully and plainly upon this Subject.

His Majesty hath not only by His Ministers, but in His own Royal Person examined the Accompts, touching the Expences of the last War, and hath thought Himself concerned to let you know, That all the Supplies which you gave Him for the War, have been

by

by Him applyed to the War, and no part of them to any other uſes: Nay ſo far from it, that if the Preparations towards the War, ſhall be taken to be for the uſe of the War, as they muſt be: A great part of His own Revenue, to many Hundred thouſands of pounds hath been employed alſo, and ſwallowed up in the Charges of the War, and what did neceſſarily relate to it. To which may be added the great Debts Contracted by His Majeſty in the War, and the great Charge in the Repairs of the Hulls of His Ships, and putting His Navy into ſuch a condition as it was before.

Beſides, His Majeſty thinks it ought to be conſidered, That when the Charges of the War were at the higheſt, the inevitable effects of, and thoſe other calamities which it pleaſed God at that time to bring upon us, did make ſo great a diminution in His Revenues, that beſides all other accidents and diſadvantages, the loſs that He ſuſtained in Three Branches of His Revenues: In His Cuſtoms, Exciſe, and Hearth-money, by

by reaſon of the War, the Plague, and the Fire, did amount to little leſs then Six hundred thouſand pounds.

Thus you ſee, That though your Supplies have been great, yet the Charges occaſioned by the War, and the Calamities which accompanied it, have been greater: And that the Debt which is left upon His Majeſty, and which He complains of, hath been contracted by the War, and not by the diverſion of the Moneys deſigned for it.

His Majeſty hath Commanded me to ſay one thing more to you upon this Subject, That He did not enter into this War upon any private inclination or appetite of His own: The firſt ſtep He made towards it, did ariſe from your Advice, and the Promiſes of your Aſſiſtance; But if the Charges and Accidents of the War, have outgone all your Supplies, and left Him under the burden of this Debt, He thinks that as well the Juſtice to your Promiſe, as the Duty and Loyalty you have always ſhewed Him, will oblige you to relieve Him from it: And

the rather, when you ſhall ſeriouſly conſider, how uneaſie this burden muſt be to Him, and what ill conſequences the continuance under it muſt draw upon all His Affairs: In which particular, you, and every perſon you repreſent in this Nation, will be concerned, as well as Himſelf.

His Majeſty doth therefore Command me in His Name, to deſire you once more, and to conjure you, by that conſtant Duty and Loyalty which you have always expreſſed to Him, and by all the concernment you have, for the Support of the Honour and Safety of His Government, to provide ſuch a Supply for Him at this time, as may bear proportion to the preſſing Occaſions that He hath, and to the ſtate of His Affairs at home and abroad: And ſo ſpeedily, And ſo effectually, as may anſwer the ends for which He hath deſired it.

His Majeſty hath further Commanded me to put you in mind of what was at your laſt meeting propoſed to you, concerning an Union between the two Kingdoms, and to let you know,

That

That the Parliament of *Scotland* hath ſince declared to His Majeſty, That ſuch Commiſſioners as His Majeſty ſhall name, ſhall be Authorized on their part, to treat with Commiſſioners for this Kingdom, upon the Grounds and Conditions of the Union: His Majeſty therefore thought fit now again to recommend it to you, to take that matter effectually into your Conſideration.

In the *SAVOY*,

Printed by the Aſſigns of *John Bill* and *Chriſto-pher Barker*, Printers to the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſty. 1669.